

SUBJECT: Safety Of Use Message (SOUM) TACOM Control No.
SOUM-04-003,
Operational, M142, NSN: 1005-00-854-4463, LIN: M74618, Used
with M60 Machine
Gun for Overhead Firing.

* URGENT *
* DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY TO SOLDIERS OR *
* DAMAGE TO ARMY EQUIPMENT WILL OCCUR IF THE *
* INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS MESSAGE ARE NOT IMPLEMENTED *

1. References:

a. DTG 022130Z APR 92, SOUM, Operational, AMCCOM No.
92-08, subject:
Deadline After Validation; M142 Gun Mount, NSN 1005-00-854-
4463, Used with
M60 Machine Gun for Overhead Firing.

b. DTG 212100Z APR 92, SOUM, Operational, AMCCOM No.
92-10, subject:
Deadline After Validation; M142 Gun Mount, NSN 1005-00-854-
4463, Used with
M60 Machine Gun to Change Overhead Firing to Love Overhead
Firing Range
(Infiltration Courses).

c. Letter, HQ, US Army Armament, Munitions and
Chemical Command, 19 Dec
86, subject: 7.62mm Machine Gun Infiltration Course Safety
Criteria.

d. Memorandum For Record, ATIC-RTI, August 1987,
subject: Interim Fix
to M142 Machine Gun Mount for Use on Overhead Fire Ranges
(Infiltration
Course).

e. Memorandum For Record, AMSMC-SFS, 6 Feb 97,
subject: Modification of M142 Gun Mount for M60 Machine
Gun.

f. TM 9-1005-245-13&P, Operator, Unit and Direct

Support Maintenance Manual for Ground Mounts; Machine Gun Mounts; and
Combinations for Tactical/Armored Vehicles, Dec 1994.

g. TM 9-1005-224-23&P, Unit and Direct Support Maintenance Manual for
M60 Machine Gun, May 1998.

2. Distribution: Note this is a "Safety Of Use Message".
MACOM Commanders
will immediately retransmit this message to all subordinate
commands/activities that utilize the M60/M142 combination
for overhead fire.
This message does not concern other uses of the M60/M142.
Commanders will
re-transmit this message within 24 hours of receipt of this
message and
acknowledge receipt of this message within five working
days to Safety
Office, Tank-automotive and Armament Command-Rock Island
(TACOM-RI), ATTN:
AMSTA-CS-CZR, Rock Island, IL 61299-7630, e-mail: amsta-cs-
czt@ria.army.mil.

3. Problem Discussion.

a. A fatality has recently occurred at least in part
the result of
incorrect M60 Machine Gun mounting into the M142 Machine
Gun Mount, NSN:
1005-00-854-4463, LIN: M74618. If the M60 is not properly
seated and
secured the weapon will not be limited to firing into only
safe zones during
training exercises. The most recent fatality occurred when
an M60 used for
overhead fire was not seated properly to ensure that the
latch secured the
weapon in a safe firing position to avoid the training
participants. As a
result, a drill instructor was fatally wounded. Previously
released SOUMs
92-08 and 92-10 addressed this problem, but may not have
been properly
implemented. Therefore, this SOUM (04-XXX) addresses the
required changes

to ensure the M60 is securely mounted in a safe configuration in the M142 Mount for overhead firing.

b. Refer to Technical Manual (TM) 9-1005-245-13&P, February 1973, page 10-1, for view of subject mount. Page C-26-1, Figure C-26 gives a breakdown of the M142 mount including Item 16, Catch Strike, NSN: 5340-01-509-6851, which will be modified in accordance with the authorized fix. For authorized fix instructions, refer to the ATIC-RTI and AMSMC-SFS memorandums cited above.

4. RISK LEVEL. The initial risk assessment code for this hazard is I-D
(Hazard Severity: Catastrophic - Hazard Probability: OCCASSIONAL)
resulting in a HIGH risk level. There is a likely probability that death and or permanent disability injuries may result if the M142 Gun Mount fails to hold the M60 Machine Gun during Overhead Firing. Provided all Direct Support maintenance checks and services are applied to all M60 Machine Guns and M142 Mounts during overhead live fire, there is a Medium Residual risk level (Hazard Severity: Catastrophic - Hazard Probability: Improbable).

5. User Actions.

a. Commanders must respond to TACOM-RI, AMSTA-CS-CZR, e-mail: amsta-cs-czr@ria.army.mil <mailto:amsta-cs-czr@ria.army.mil>, within 10 days and identify whether or not they possess the mount (NSN: 1005-00-854-4463, LIN: M74618). The mount must not be used (and M60 overhead firing prohibited) until the gun mounts have been successfully modified and

inspected.

b. Inspection Procedures. Ensure mount has been modified in accordance with fix instructions. Ensure modification procedures have been incorporated into range management policies, procedures, records, and range safety check lists to ensure continuity regardless of changes in personnel or equipment. Ensure a copy of this SOUM is placed with technical manual (TM) 9-1005-245-13&P, February 1973, page 10-1 (view of subject mount). Page C-26-1, Figure C-26 gives a breakdown of the M142 mount including Item 16, Catch Strike, NSN: 5340-01-509-6851, which will be modified in accordance with the authorized fix. Modified equipment must be dedicated to the sole purpose of overhead live fire training and never used in any other scenario. The following Direct Support maintenance checks and services must be applied to all M60 Machine Guns and M142 Mounts used during overhead live fire:

(1) After each 10,000 rounds fired, the machine gun barrel must be replaced and the weapon must undergo a complete technical inspection IAW TM 9-1005-224-23&P.

(2) After each 10,000 rounds fired, the M142 Machine Gun Mount Strike Catch is checked for cracks using a dye penetrant. If a crack is found, latch must be replaced. The Spring, NSN: 5360-00-772-0187, and Pin, NSN: 5315-00-772-0186, are automatically replaced after 10,000 rounds fired.

(3) If round count has not been maintained on mounts which have been modified: Perform dye penetrant test, replace spring and pin as described

above and initiate round count.

c. Correction Procedures. Modify M142 Machine Gun Mount with fix instructions provided. Note: A sketch of the instructions below is available upon request from technical POC or your local Logistics Assistance Representative (LAR).

(1) An 11/32 inch hole is drilled through the right side of the Strike, Catch. The Catch is rather hard steel measuring 45 on the Rockwell scale. The drilled hole is located 5/8 inch from the right of center on the catch and 1/4 inch up from the bottom edge. This location allows the head of the bolt that is inserted into the hole to clear the trigger housing of the M60 Machine Gun.

(2) A fully threaded 5/16 inch bolt, 3 1/4 inches in length is required. The bolt must be ground to a taper to allow it to clear the base of the Platform Assembly. The taper begins 5/8 inch from the end of the bolt and ends with a width of 3/16 inch at the end of the bolt.

(3) The bolt is inserted so the tip of the taper is 1/16 inch (thickness of a quarter) from the platform assembly. The bolt is secured by applying a nut and lock washer on both sides of the catch. The bolt should be Grade 7 or above. Refer to PS Magazine issue 572 dated July 00 for information on the grading of bolts (<http://www.logsa.army.mil/psmag/>).

c. Parts Required.

(1) Spring, NSN: 5360-00-772-0187. Managed by S9I with a current cost of \$1.65.

(2) Pin, NSN: 5315-00-772-0186. Managed by S9I with a current cost of \$6.59.

(3) Bolt, 5/16 inch diameter, Grade 7 or above, (2) nuts, and (2) washers.

d. Requisitioning Instructions: Locally purchase 5/16 inch bolt, nuts, and washers. Requisition Spring and Pin through Army supply system.

e. Category of Maintenance: Direct Support.

6. Program Sponsor Actions. Publications that require change as a result of this inspection are: TM 9-1005-245-23&P and TM 9-1005-224-23&P.

7. Supply Status. Estimated Cost Impact Of Stock Fund Items: This fix is for training centers only and will not adversely affect inventory of the replacement parts.

8. Final report from the recent fatality has not yet been released. Any required changes to equipment, overhead fire range procedures, or this SOUM as a result of findings of the investigation will be released by future TACOM SOUM.

9. The Points of Contact (POC).

a. Logistics Information: William Jensen, TACOM-Rock Island, AMSTA-LC-CSIO, DSN: 793-3677, Commercial 309-782-3677, email: jensenw@ria.army.mil.

b. Technical Information: Barbara Painter, TACOM-Rock Island, AMSTA-LC-CSIO, DSN: 793-4403; Commercial 309-782-4403, email:

painterb@ria.army.mil.

c. Safety Engineering: Judith Windham, TACOM-Rock Island, AMSTA-CS-CZR, DSN 793-6367, Commercial 309-782-6367, email: windhamj2@ria.army.mil.

10. To find your TACOM LAR, you must be a registered user in the Army Electronic Product Support (AEPS) database; if not request access to AEPS at the public page [https \(double slash\) aeps.ria.army.mil/aepspublic.cfm](https://aeps.ria.army.mil/aepspublic.cfm). Click on enter AEPS, a security alert box will appear, click on "OK". Then a client authentication box pops up and you can click "OK" or "Cancel". That will bring up the enter-network password box where you will enter your user name and password and click "OK". Once logged into the AEPS site, click on the LAR tab, (at the top of page) in popular applications. Click on Log Asst Personnel on the left side of the screen under common links. Then select the appropriate region, i.e. CONUS, USAREUR, Far East, Kuwait. Select the location nearest you and click on a name. This will give you a LAR's name, DSN and commercial phone number, email address, and photo.

If you don't have access to AEPS, you can also obtain this information by contacting the TACOM Senior Command Representative (SCR) for your area.

CONUS-East, (includes all units east of the Mississippi plus Fort Polk, FORSCOM, SOUTHCOM, Kuwait, and CONUS units deployed, (to include National Guard and Reserve units), DSN 236-6923, Commercial 910-396-6923.

CONUS-West, (includes all units west of the Mississippi except Fort Polk, to include all National Guard and Reserve units), DSN 737-0263, Commercial 254-287-0263. USAREUR (Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, Luxemburg, Italy,

Bosnia, Kosovo, and Macedonia) DSN 314-375-3461, Commercial
01149

621-487-3461, in Germany, 0621-487-3461; Far East (includes
Alaska, Hawaii,

Korea, Okinawa, Kwajlein, and Japan) DSN 315-722-036/6579,
commercial 011 82

32 520-6036/6579. SBCT you can call your (SCR) at DSN 357-
2991, Commercial

253-967-2991.

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